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MEMORANDUM

TO:

PC Codes and Ordinances Committee

Planning Commission Board

FROM:

Margaret Russell

Parks and Recreation Department

DATE:

September 21, 2010

SUBJECT:

Proposed Code Changes in response to Community Gardens Resolution

Changes have been made to code in response to the City Council's resolution # 20091119-065, Community Gardens and Urban Farms, which requested a system for creating community gardens on city property to be streamlined.

Chapter 8-4 for Qualified Community Gardens is repealed. This Chapter was for community gardens that fit a very specific description for location. It is no longer supported by specific grants.

Chapter 14-7 is added for Sustainable Urban Agriculture, including in particular the following sections:

14-7-2,3 Garden permit is required to operate a city supported community garden (to receive water tap waivers) and must go through the land dept. director

14-7-11 Garden permit application must come from a non profit

14-7-21 License application for city supported community gardens must come from a non profit and is required

14-7-32 Land Department director approves an annual renewal of license.

Chapter 11.1 is amended to process community garden license agreement separately from other city land license agreements.

Currently, there is no zoning that permits community gardens except for Qualified Community Gardens. Changes to Chapter 25 will allow community gardens as a described agricultural use permitted in all districts, and urban farms as allowable in Public districts. The waivers that were in place for Qualified Community Gardens, for site plans, water tap permits and platting, will be allowed for all community gardens. Additionally, the ordinance eliminates impact fees on community gardens placed on city land.

RESOLUTION NO. 20091119-065

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Food Policy Board (SFPB) exists to advise City policy makers on ways to enhance local production of quality food and its accessibility to residents in Austin; and

WHEREAS, the SFPB was charged to:

- (1) explore new means for the city to improve the local food economy, including availability, sustainability, accessibility, and quality of food and our environment; and
 - (2) assist city departments in the coordination of their efforts; and
- (3) review availability and recommend measures to promote the preservation of agricultural land in the City of Austin; and
- (4) recommend to the city adoption of measures that will improve existing local food production by adding new programs, incentives projects, regulations, or services; and

WHEREAS, urban farms and community gardens provide access to nutritious foods produced with less carbon resources than those shipped in from other regions, supporting the City's Climate Protection and Zero Waste initiatives; and

WHEREAS, urban farms and community gardens contribute to food security for the city, support the local economy and provide educational opportunities for urban residents; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The Austin City Council supports sustainable urban agriculture and community gardening in Austin and directs the City Manager to:

- (1) Streamline the process to establish a qualified community garden and responsible urban farm.
- (a) Initiate necessary code amendments to define "qualified" community gardens and urban farms as those which will include using water conservation practices, composting, and non-polluting growing practices.
- (b) Identify and map public lands that would be appropriate for urban agriculture and qualified community gardens.
- (c) Support efforts to gauge interest and publicize urban agriculture and community gardens through the SFPB.
- (2) Name a single point of contact within the City of Austin to support community members in establishing and sustaining urban farms and qualified community gardens.

- (3) Direct appropriate Watershed Protection Department staff to discuss with the SFPB their recommendations for riparian buffers, integrated pest management and fertilizer use on public land.
- 4) Present the plan for sustainable urban agriculture and community gardens to the SFPB at their February 22, 2010, meeting for recommendations prior to presenting to Council on March 11, 2010.

ADOPTED: November 19, 2009 ATTEST:

Shirley A. Gentry

City Clerk

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ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 8-4; REPLACING CHAPTER 14-7
AND AMENDING CHAPTER 14-11 TO THE CITY CODE RELATING TO
SUSTAINABLE URBAN AGRICULTURE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

- PART 1. The Council finds that urban farms and city-supported community gardens:
 - (A) provide access to nutritious foods produced with fewer carbon resources than those shipped to the community from other regions;
 - (B) promote sustainability by reducing fuel consumption and air pollution with reduced transportation requirements for distributing food;
 - (C) reduce the need for energy required for cooling through increasing plants in the environment;
 - (D) increase storm water collection;
 - (E) support the City's Climate Protection and Zero Waste initiatives;
 - (F) contribute to food security for the City;
 - (G) support the local economy;

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- (H) provide educational opportunities for urban residents; and
- (I) when located on eligible city land, eliminate the need for City resources necessary to mow and maintain land owned by the City.
- **PART 2.** Section 14-11-1(A) of the City Code is amended to read:
- § 14-11-1 APPLICATION REQUIRED.
 - (A) Except as provided in <u>Chapter 14-7</u> (<u>Sustainable Urban Agriculture</u>) and 14-11-2 (<u>Exceptions For Certain Uses Of Public Property</u>), a person must submit an application to the director of the Public Works Department to obtain a release of a public easement, license for the non-city use of public property, or vacation of a public right-of-way.
- **PART 3.** City Code Chapter 8-4 (*Qualified Community Garden*) is repealed and a new Chapter 14-7 is added to read as follows:

CHAPTER 14-7. SUSTAINABLE URBAN AGRICULTURE.

ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

§ 14-7-1 DEFINITIONS.

In this chapter:

- (1) CITY-SUPPORTED COMMUNITY GARDEN means eligible city land controlled under a license agreement or non-city land controlled under a land control document which is located in the city corporate limits or extraterritorial jurisdiction by a non-profit organization that
 - (a) is used by a group of four or more participating gardeners either on separate plots or farmed collectively by the group to grow, produce and harvest food crops for personal or group use, consumption or donation by the non-profit organization or cooperatively for the benefit of its members;
 - (b) is operated in a manner that includes water conservation, and in the case of eligible city land includes composting, non-polluting, and integrated pest management practices that promote a sustainable garden, and is cultivated solely for the production of organic produce;
 - (c) may include common areas maintained and used by the group or non-food, ornamental crops;
 - (d) is platted as a legal lot or exempted under Section 25-4-3 (Temporary Exemption from Platting Requirements); and
 - (e) has a community garden zoning use classification.
- (2) CITY LAND DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR means the department director or administrative head of the city department responsible for managing the city-owned land used as a city-supported community garden.
- (3) DEPARTMENT means the department or office designated by the city manager to administer this chapter.
- (4) DIRECTOR means the department director or administrative head of the department or the director's authorized designee.
- (5) ELIGIBLE CITY LAND means city-owned land identified by the director as public land that is eligible for use as a city-supported community garden and the city land department director approves its use as a city-supported community garden.

- (6) GARDEN PERMIT means a permit issued by the director for a city-supported community garden on eligible city land or non-city land.
- (7) LAND CONTROL DOCUMENT means a deed, written agreement (or an amendment to a previously executed land control document) or other documentation acceptable to the director evidencing the non-profit organization's control of the non-city land that allows the non-city land to be used as a city-supported community garden under this chapter.
- (8) LICENSE AGREEMENT means a written agreement (or an amendment to a previously executed license agreement) between the city and a non-profit organization approved by the director that allows eligible city land to be used as a city-supported community garden under this chapter and in a form acceptable to the city attorney.
- (9) NON-CITY LAND means a parcel of land not owned by the city that is eligible for use as a city-supported community garden.
- (10) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION means a non-profit entity under the Texas Business Organizations Code whose purpose allows it to operate a city-supported community garden, is legally responsible for filing an application and documentation under this chapter, and is authorized to enter into a license agreement or land control document under this chapter. The director will approve each organization that is eligible under this chapter.
- (11) PARTICIPATING GARDENER means each family or unrelated individual that participates in a city-supported community garden.
- (12) URBAN FARM means a parcel of land between 1 and 5 acres that is agriculturally cultivated by a person solely for the production of organic produce to be sold for profit.

§ 14-7-2 GARDEN PERMIT REQUIRED; WAIVER OF DEADLINES.

A person may not operate a city-supported community garden under this chapter unless the person obtains and possesses a garden permit and any other permit required by this chapter or the city, and pays any required fees.

§ 14-7-3 RESTRICTIONS ON ISSUANCE OF GARDEN PERMIT.

The director may not issue a garden permit on eligible city land unless the city land department director consents in writing to its use as a city-supported community garden.

ARTICLE 2. GARDEN PERMIT PROCESSING REQUIREMENTS.

§ 14-7-11 DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR GARDEN PERMIT APPLICATIONS.

- (A) An application in a form acceptable to the director for a garden permit filed under this chapter must be submitted to the director by a non-profit organization that has not been issued a notice under section 14-7-33 (Notices Of Termination Of Use And Qualification).
- (B) An application for a garden permit filed under this section must be accompanied by:
 - (1) any required fees; and
 - (2) in the case of a city-supported community garden on non-city land, a copy of the executed land control document.

§ 14-7-12 DETERMINATION ON GARDEN PERMIT APPLICATION; APPROVAL AND ISSUANCE OF GARDEN PERMIT.

- (A) The director shall review an application submitted by a non-profit organization for a garden permit for completeness and the acceptability of the application.
- (B) The director may approve or deny a garden permit after the director receives a complete and acceptable application. The director shall issue a permit to the non-profit organization if the director determines that the application for a garden permit complies with this chapter and any rules with respect to this chapter.

ARTICLE 3. LICENSE AGREEMENT APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCEDURES.

§ 14-7-21 APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSE AGREEMENT APPROVAL; LICENSE AGREEMENT APPROVAL.

- (A) A non-profit organization desiring to operate a city-supported community garden on eligible city land must file a supplemental application for a license agreement in a form acceptable to the director with the application for a garden permit.
- (B) The director may approve a supplemental application by a non-profit organization for a license agreement for the private use of eligible city land for a city-supported community garden, unless:

Responsible Att'y: Jim Williams

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The fees required under this chapter shall be established by separate ordinance.

§ 14-7-32 ANNUAL LICENSE AGREEMENT RENEWAL.

- (A) Each license agreement will be automatically renewed annually under the terms of the agreement, provided:
 - (1) a termination or suspension notice has not been issued under section 14-7-33 (Notices Of Termination Of Use And Qualification) or section 14-7-34 (Suspension or Termination Of Garden Permit);
 - (2) the city land department director responsible for managing the land that is the subject of the license agreement consents to its continued use as a city-supported community garden.

§ 14-7-33 NOTICES OF TERMINATION OF USE AND QUALIFICATION.

- (A) A non-profit organization operating a city-supported community garden must notify the director and each person or garden committee responsible for managing each of the organization's city-supported community gardens not later than 90 calendar days before the organization terminates a garden permit.
- (B) If a non-profit organization operating a city-supported community garden ceases to qualify under this chapter, the director must notify the non-profit organization and each person or garden committee responsible for managing each of the organization's city-supported community gardens that the organization is no longer designated as a non-profit organization. The license agreement must be assigned to another eligible non-profit organization within 90 calendar days after the date the non-profit organization ceases to qualify under this chapter or the garden permit and the license agreement will be terminated by the director.

§ 14-7-34 SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF GARDEN PERMIT.

If the director determines that a non-profit organization or a participating gardener has violated or failed to comply with the terms of a garden permit or license agreement issued under this chapter, the director may immediately halt all city-supported community garden activities under the garden permit and suspend or terminate the garden permit.

§ 14-7-35 APPEAL.

A non-profit organization may appeal the suspension or termination of a garden permit under section 14-7-33 (Suspension Or Termination Of Garden Permit) to the city manager in accordance with Article 7, Division 1 (Appeals) of Chapter 25-1.
ARTICLE 5. URBAN FARMS.
§ 14-7-41 ADMINISTRATION OF URBAN FARMS.
An Urban Farm on city owned land will be managed by the city under an appropriate contracting method, as determined by the city manager.
PART 4. This ordinance takes effect on, 2010.
PASSED AND APPROVED
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Lee Leffingwell
Mayor
APPROVED: ATTEST:
Karen M. Kennard Shirley A. Gentry
Acting City Attorney City Clerk

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 25 AND TITLE 30 OF THE CITY CODE RELATED TO COMMUNITY GARDENS.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. Section 25-2-7 (Agricultural Uses Described) of the City Code is amended to read:

§ 25-2-7 AGRICULTURAL USES DESCRIBED.

- (A) Agricultural uses include the on-site production of plant and animal products by agricultural methods.
- (B) Agricultural use classifications are described as follows:
 - (1) ANIMAL PRODUCTION use is the use of a site for the raising of animals or production of animal products including eggs and dairy products, on an agricultural or commercial basis. This use includes grazing, ranching, dairy farming, and poultry farming.
 - (2) COMMUNITY GARDEN use is the use of a site for growing or harvesting food crops or ornamental crops on an agricultural basis, by a group of individuals for personal or group use, consumption or donation.
 - [(2)](2) CROP PRODUCTION use is the use of a site for the raising and harvesting of tree crops, row crops, or field crops on an agricultural or commercial basis, including packing and processing.
 - HORTICULTURE use is the use of a site for the growing of horticultural or flora cultural specialties, including flowers, shrubs, and trees intended for ornamental or landscaping purposes, but excluding retail sales. This use includes wholesale plant nurseries and greenhouses.
- [(4)](5) SUPPORT HOUSING use is the use of a site for living accommodations by agricultural employees or their families.

customer.

PART 10. Section 25-9-346 (Exemption for Qualified Community Gardens) of the City Code is amended to read:

§ 25-9-346 EXEMPTION FOR <u>CITY-SUPPORTED</u> [QUALIFIED] COMMUNITY GARDENS.

- (A) <u>In this section, city-supported community garden and garden permit have the meanings assigned by Section 14-7-1 (Definitions) of the City Code.</u>
- (B)[(A)] An [A] impact fee may not be assessed on a <u>city-supported</u> [qualified] community garden.
- (C)[(B)] The <u>director of</u> the [Parks and Recreation D]department <u>designated</u> under Section 14-7-1 (Definitions) shall determine if the <u>parcel of land is</u> issued a [community] garden <u>permit</u> [is qualified under Section 8-4-1 (Designation)].
- [(C) An exemption under this section applies to a single 5/8 inch simple meter for one service unit if no other plumbing other than irrigation is installed.]
- (D) If the garden permit on a parcel of land terminates, [a property loses its status as a qualified community garden under Chapter 8-4 (Qualified Community Garden)], the director of the department [Parks and Recreation Department] designated under Section 14-7-1 (Definitions) shall notify the director of the Water and Wastewater Utility and the director of the [Watershed Protection] Planning and Development Review Department of the change in [loss of the property's] status.
- (E) After a garden permit terminates on a parcel of land and if the tap is not removed in accordance with Section 25-9-99 (Temporary Tap Permit for a City-supported Community Garden) [property loses its status as a qualified community garden]:
 - (1) a user of the <u>parcel of land</u> [property] shall pay <u>any</u> impact fees on the <u>parcel of land within 30 calendar days</u> [property]; and

- (2) <u>if the impact fee is not paid as required under Paragraph (1),</u> the director of the Water and Wastewater Utility <u>must</u> [may] notify the user that:
 - if the <u>parcel of land [let]</u> had a temporary exemption from the platting requirements <u>before the garden permit was terminated</u>, the user must plat the <u>parcel of land [let]</u> before the <u>W[w]</u>ater and <u>W[w]</u>astewater <u>U[u]</u>tility can continue service;
 - (b) the <u>delinquent</u> impact fee <u>on the parcel of land must be paid</u> within 15 calendar days [is due]; and
 - (c) the [user's] failure to secure legal lot status or to pay the impact fee is grounds for terminating water service; and[-]
- (3) if, following the notice under Paragraph (2), legal lot status is not obtained or the impact fee is not paid as required under Paragraph (2), the water service may be disconnected.

PART 11. Section 30-2-3 of the City Code is amended to read:

§ 30-2-3 TEMPORARY EXEMPTION FROM CITY PLATTING REQUIREMENTS.

- (A) The director may temporarily exempt a parcel of land from the city's requirement to plat if the director determines that the sole use of the parcel is as a [qualified] community garden [described in City Code Chapter 8-4 (Qualified Community Gardens)]. An applicant shall provide the director with the information and documentation necessary to establish the exemption.
- (B) If the sole use of an exempted parcel changes from a [qualified]community garden, an exemption under this section expires.
- (C) A parcel temporarily exempted under this section must be platted before it may be used for a purpose other than as a [qualified] community garden.

PART 12. Thi	s ordinance takes effect on		, 2010.
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		·	Lee Leffingwell
			Mayor
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APPROVED:	77	ATTEST:	
	Karen M. Kennard Acting City Attorney	9	Shirley A. Gentry City Clerk
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ORDINANCE NO.		DI	#5

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 20100913-004 TO AUTHORIZE ADDITIONAL FEES AND WAIVER OF CERTAIN FEES RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE URBAN AGRICULTURE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. The City Council amends Ordinance No. 20100913-004, the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Fee Ordinance (Original Fee Ordinance), to authorize the following additional fees and fee waives be set and charged by the City for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 beginning on the effective date of this ordinance and ending on September 30, 2011:

- A. Under the Category titled "Planning & Development Review Department Site Plan, Miscellaneous Site Plan Fees Site Plan" on page 52 of Exhibit A to the Original Fee Ordinance add the following note at the end of the category: "NOTE: Site Plan Commercial Exemption fee shall be waived for any section 25-5-2(K) site plan exemption associated solely with a City-Supported Community Garden issued a garden permit under Chapter 14-7 of the City Code."
- B. Under the Category titled "Planning & Development Review Department Building Plan Review Fee" on pages 53-54 of Exhibit A to the Original Fee Ordinance add the following note at the end of the category: "NOTE: Building Plan Review Fee shall be waived for any review of engineer drawings associated solely with a City-Supported Community Garden issued a garden permit under Chapter 14-7 of the City Code."
- C. Under the Category titled "Planning & Development Review Department Building Permit Fees, New Construction (residential and Miscellaneous Group R-3) (4) Plumbing Fee " on page 60 of Exhibit A to the Original Fee Ordinance add the following note at the end of the category: "NOTE: Plumbing Fee shall be waived for any inspection associated solely with a City-Supported Community Garden issued a garden permit under Chapter 14-7 of the City Code."
- D. Under the Category titled "Austin Water Utility Tap & Reconnection Fee performed by the City, Meter Size: 5/8" plus actual cost of meter" on page 147 of Exhibit A to the Original Fee Ordinance add the following note at the end of the category: "NOTE: Meter Tap & Reconnection fees (not to exceed Meter Size 5/8" plus actual cost of meter fees) shall be waived for the installation of a water meter solely for a City-Supported Community Garden issued a garden permit under Chapter 14-7 of the City Code."

- E. Under the Category titled "Austin Water Utility Wastewater Service Rates Wastewater Service Rates for Retail Customers: "Existing Customers," Item (C) on page 149 of Exhibit A to the Original Fee Ordinance replace the comment with the following note: "Non-Residential Customers with Irrigation Meters. For those non-residential customers that have a separate City of Austin water meter for irrigation other than a water meter solely for a City Supported Community Garden issued a garden permit under Chapter 14-7 of the City Code, the City will base wastewater billing for domestic usage on actual monthly water consumption."
- F. Under the Category titled "Austin Water Utility Wastewater Service Rates Wastewater Service Rates for Retail Customers: "New Customers," Item (D) on page 149 of Exhibit A to the Original Fee Ordinance replace the comment with the following note: "Non-Residential Customers with Irrigation Meters. If a new non-residential customer has installed a separate City of Austin water meter for irrigation other than a water meter solely for a City Supported Community Garden issued a garden permit under Chapter 14-7 of the City Code, the City will base the new customer's wastewater billing for domestic usage on actual monthly water consumption."
- G. Under the Category titled "Austin Transportation Department Transportation Fund, Construction Inspection Right of Way Fees, Inspection of Utility Cuts " on page 189 of Exhibit A to the Original Fee Ordinance add the following note at the end of the category: "NOTE: Utility Cut Cost Recovery fees shall be waived for any inspections of utility cuts associated with the installation of a water meter solely for a City-Supported Community Garden issued a garden permit under Chapter 14-7 of the City Code."
- H. Under the Category titled "Public Works Department Transportation Fund, Utility Cut Cost Recovery" on page 200 of Exhibit A to the Original Fee Ordinance add the following note at the end of the category: "NOTE: Utility Cut Cost Recovery fees shall be waived for any utility cuts associated with the installation of a water meter solely for a City-Supported Community Garden issued a garden permit under Chapter 14-7 of the City Code."
- I. Under the Category titled "City-wide Fees" on page 215 of Exhibit A to the Original Fee Ordinance:

		Approved 2009-10	Approved 2010-11
City-Supported Commu	nity Garden Fees:	2007-10	2010-11
Garden Permit Ap	pplication Fee\$	\$0.00	\$50.00
License Agreeme	nt Application Fee	\$0.00	\$100.00
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Date: 10/18/2010 8:49 AM Page 2 of 3 M:\GC\GLA\2009-2010 Council Items\Drafts\8-26-2010\Community Garden budget draft ord

COA Law Department Responsible Att'y: Jim Williams

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